



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Customer Focus:

The A. Reese and Sara R. Brown WRP permanent easement was secured in 1997. The 1240-acre tract lies in Liberty County in southeast Texas. Since securing the easement, the NRCS has restored over 400 acres of inland freshwater wetlands. An additional nearly 200 acres have been planted to native hardwood trees. Another 60 acres of mixed shallow and deep open water habitat and over 500 acres of forested riparian areas are being managed for a wide variety of flora and fauna. Literally thousands of migratory and resident birds, reptiles, amphibians, and several species of upland game birds and mammals use the easement on a seasonal or yearlong basis. The Brown WRP easement exemplifies the intent of the program by providing high quality habitat to a myriad of plants and animals.



Texas Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements. Landowner interest in this program has steadily grown since first being introduced in the State in 1994.

With various types of wetland systems in the State including playa lakes in the north, riverine systems in the central and east, and low lying coastal areas in the south, a high potential exists for restoration projects. The Texas WRP goal is to restore habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. NRCS administers this program, but works closely with other agencies such as the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited and the Conservation Fund of Texas.

Accomplishments

There are currently 52 projects enrolled in the program on 43,475 acres. Over \$18 million have been allocated in 22 counties. Projects include 39 permanent easements, 8 thirty-year easements and 5 restoration cost-share agreements. There are two special project areas in the State where emphasis is being placed to restore critical wetlands. One area is in the Lower Rio Grande Valley where, in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, a 16,000 acre tract of coastal saline wetlands is being restored. In addition, NRCS established the Red River Initiative. This initiative is an effort to restore thousands of acres of previously lost wetlands adjacent to the Red River in East Texas.

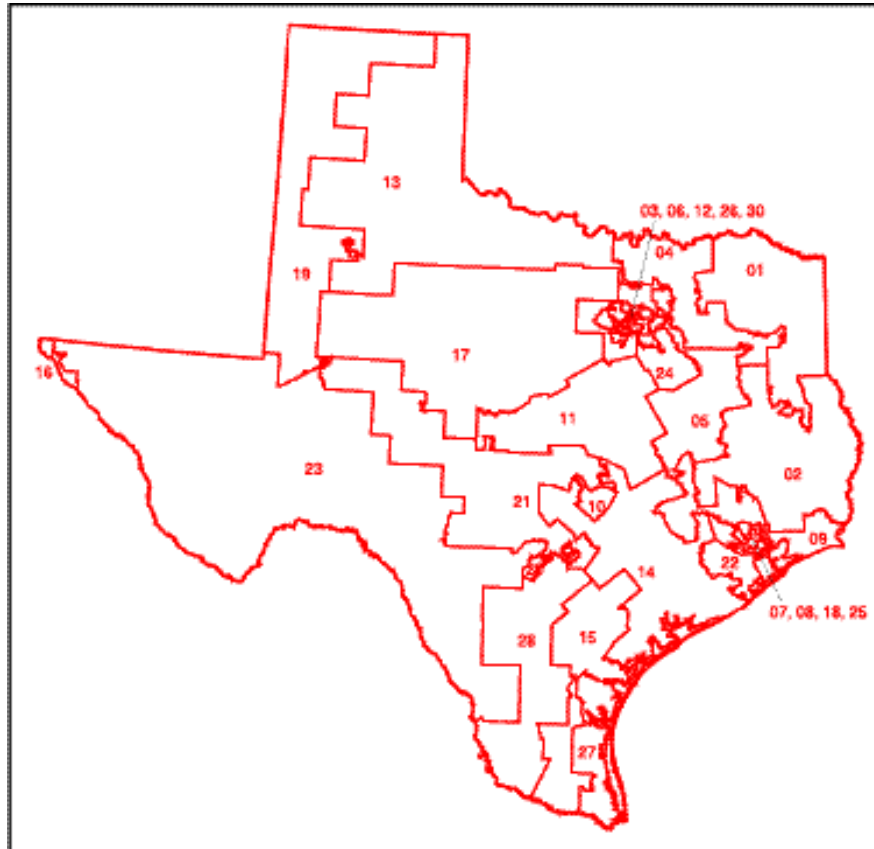
Program Benefits

Many acres of Texas wetlands were drained years ago for agricultural purposes with a resulting loss in habitat for wetland dependent wildlife species, primarily migratory waterfowl. Local communities welcome a return of the wetlands that will benefit these areas by enhancing wildlife, providing flood protection, and improving water quality. Bird watching has also become a major tourist attraction in many parts of the State. The restoration efforts will enhance habitat for many bird species, which will provide an additional boost for local and State economies.

State contacts

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Texas Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Texas WRP Dollars & Contracts

Congressional District	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (94-2001)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
1	\$3,947,250	9	\$5,982,252	20
2			\$1,619,122	3
4	\$67,750	1	\$458,157	2
5	\$475,000	1	\$548,303	2
6			\$170,299	2
9	\$70,000	1	\$70,000	1
11			\$778,302	2
13			\$264,584	7
14	\$540,000	1	\$4,544,502	6
24			\$1,814,420	4
27			\$2,080,270	3
State Totals	\$5,100,000	13	\$18,330,211	52

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